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02/22/2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

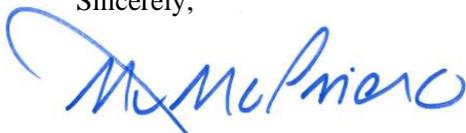
As you know, on February 3, 2023, a Norfolk Southern freight train carrying twenty cars of hazardous chemicals derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. The initial chemical spill, and subsequent decision to initiate a controlled burn of toxic chemicals, has created a disaster that will have devastating impacts on the air and water for communities around the region. While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has understandably focused their efforts so far on the safety of the local region and Ohio River watershed, I have several questions regarding the EPA's response to monitor air and water in nearby states like New York:

- 1.) How is the EPA coordinating with surrounding states to ensure air and water quality are being monitored beyond the immediate site of the accident?
- 2.) What is the agency's plan for long-term testing to ensure unforeseen consequences of this incident do not emerge in the future?
- 3.) Was a controlled burn the only appropriate action to mitigate the threat of explosion, or were there other potentially beneficial solutions that could have produced a less damaging result? When was the standard that produced this decision last evaluated?
- 4.) What, if any, federal training or resources are provided to local first responders to ensure preparedness when they encounter an environmentally hazardous emergency such as the East Palestine derailment?

I believe the answers to these questions are essential for understanding the EPA's decision-making process, long-term management plan, and to assure surrounding states like New York are not adversely affected. Complete transparency is critical for the safety of millions of Americans and to ensure that any failures that led to this major disaster do not happen again.

Thank you for your time and attention to these questions and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress